

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following replacement Abstract:

A locking surgical instrument for gripping a surgical workpiece includes a body having a shaft with an engagement tip. A portion of the engagement tip is divided by one or more slits to form a plurality of segments able to be biased radially outwardly to grip the workpiece in force transmitting relationship. An actuator is engageable with the body such that movement of the actuator biases the segments to grip the workpiece.